

LESSLEY
Strand Orientation Alignment In
Strand Coating Systems And Methods"
Atty. Docket No. 14120

Appl. No. 10/623,294
Confirm. No. 4116
Examiner B. Lamb
Art Unit 1762

R E M A R K S

Request For Reconsideration, Claim Status

The application stands subject to a non-final Office action mailed on 9 January 2008. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments above and discussion below.

Claims 14, 17-19, 22-27, 29-31 and 34 are pending.

Rejection Under 35 USC 112, 2nd Paragraph

Rejection Summary

Claim 17 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite on the allegation that it is unclear how "a pin" set forth in line 2 of Claim 17 relates to the pin set forth in base Claim 14.

Claim 17 has been amended to further limit Claim 14 by reciting the "... pin having an axis extending substantially parallel to a direction in which adhesive is dispensed from the adhesive dispensing orifice." Kindly withdraw the objection to Claim 17.

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Arguments re: Mullins & Nakai

Rejection Summary

Claims 14 and 17 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,544,579 (Mullins) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,989,799 (Nakai).

Discussion of Claim 14

Claim 14 was amended by changing the order of the "strand axial orientation aligning member" and the "strand guide member" limitations thus providing proper antecedence for limitations therein. The antecedence issue addressed arose from the previous amendment of Claim 14 wherein the limitations of Claim 20 and 21 were added to Claim 14. The other limitations on the "strand axial orientation aligning member" were grouped with the initial recitation thereof. The previous scattering of the grouped limitations of Claim 14 also resulted from the previous amendment thereto.

Claim 14 has been further amended to recite that the recessed side portion of the pin includes "... an at least partially cylindrical surface portion..." and that the cylindrical surface portion is disposed along an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device. Support for this limitation may be found in original FIGS. 2-4 & 8 as discussed on page 7, lines 5-22 of the original

specification wherein the pins (250, 252) are shown having a cylindrical surface portion over which the strand (233, 235) is drawn.

Claim 14 was also amended to recite that the strand axial orientation aligning member is positioned "... such that strand is drawn partially about the at least partially cylindrical surface portion of the pin" Support for this limitation may be found in original FIGS. 2 and 4 as discussed on page 6, line 17 - page 8, line 22 of the original specification wherein the strand (233, 235) is shown drawn partially about a cylindrical surface portion of pins (233, 235).

Regarding the prior art, Mullins and Nakai fail to suggest a

... strand coating system, comprising:
an adhesive dispensing device having an adhesive dispensing orifice;
a strand axial orientation aligning member coupled to the adhesive dispensing device, the strand axial orientation aligning member is a pin having a recessed side portion,
the recessed side portion including an at least partially cylindrical surface portion along an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device,
a strand guide member including a strand guide laterally offset relative to the adhesive dispensing orifice and the strand axial orientation aligning member,
the strand axial orientation aligning member disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice such that strand is drawn partially about the at least partially cylindrical surface portion of the pin.

In FIG. 2 of Mullins, the guide roller is positioned above the applicator body (11) to draw the yarn over the arced surface (15) of the

applicator body. Thus Mullins does not disclose a "... strand axial orientation aligning member disposed between the strand guide member and the adhesive dispensing orifice such that strand is drawn partially about the at least partially cylindrical surface portion of the pin...." Also, the guide pins (17) of Mullins do not align an axial orientation of the strand, i.e., prevent twisting of the strand. The pins (17) of Mullins align the stand relative to the applicator body (11).

Nakai fails to disclose a pin having a recessed side portion including an "... at least partially cylindrical surface portion...." At col. 7, lines 1-3, Nakai specifically discloses that the surface of the roll (17) is concave. The roll (17) of Nakai does not align an axial orientation of a strand. The concave roll (17) of Nakai functions to collect (bunch) yarn filaments before the filaments are spread by passage of the yarn over a convex roll (8) in a mandrel winding operation. Also, the roll (17) in Nakai does not include an at least partially cylindrical surface portion disposed "... along an axis extending substantially transverse to an axis along which strand is drawn past the adhesive dispensing device...." Nakai discloses a mandrel winding process, not an adhesive dispenser. Moreover, there is no reason to interchange the two guide pins (17) of Mullins with the concave roll pin (17) of Nakai. Mullins is not concerned with collecting yarn filaments. Amended Claim 14 is thus patentably distinguished over Mullins and Nakai.

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Arguments re: Bolyard & Kwok

Rejection Summary

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Publication No. 2002/0088392 (Bolyard) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,077,375 (Kwok).

Discussion

Commonly owned patents/applications Under 102(e) are not prior art under 103(c). See, Guidelines Concerning the Implementation of Changes to 35 USC 102(g) and 103(c) and the Interpretation of the Term "Original Application" in the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999. Official Gazette, 11 April 2000.

Bolyard is prior art under 35 USC 102(e) since the corresponding patent (6,613,146) issued (on 2 September 2003) after the filing date (28 July 2003) of the instant application. Bolyard and the instant application were at the time of the invention, and remain, commonly assigned to Illinois Tool Works, Inc. Thus Bolyard is not prior under 35 USC 103(c). Kindly withdraw the rejection of Claim 14 based upon Bolyard.

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Arguments re: Mullins, Nakai & England

Rejection Summary

Claim 34 stands rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mullins in view of Nakai and U.S. Patent No. 3,080,134 (England).

Discussion of Claim 34

Claim 34 was amended for consistent use of the term "strand guide member". Claim 34 was further amended to recite that the strand orienting pin is located between the strand guide member and the fluid dispensing orifice so that a "... strand drawn from the strand guide member over the fluid dispensing orifice is drawn partially about the strand orienting pin...." Support for this limitation may be found in original FIGS. 2 and 4 as discussed on page 6, line 17 - page 8, line 22 of the original specification wherein the strand (233, 235) is shown drawn partially about a cylindrical surface portion of pins (233, 235).

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the prior art fails to disclose or suggest a

... system for applying coating materials onto a strand, the system comprising:
a fluid dispensing device having a fluid dispensing orifice from which fluid is dispensed,

a strand guide member coupled to the fluid dispensing device,
the strand guide member for guiding a strand drawn past the fluid
dispensing orifice;

a strand orienting pin located between the strand guide member
and the fluid dispensing orifice so that a strand drawn from the strand
guide member over the fluid dispensing orifice is drawn partially about
the strand orienting pin,

the strand orienting pin having an axial portion substantially
parallel to a direction of the fluid dispensing orifice,

the axial portion having a recessed side portion within which a
strand is captured when the strand is drawn partially about the strand
orienting pin.

The guide roller of Mullins is positioned above an applicator body (11) to draw a yarn over an arced surface (15) of the applicator body. In Mullins, pins (17) align the yarn with an orifice of the applicator body but the guide roller of Mullins is not positioned so that a strand "... drawn from the strand guide member over the fluid dispensing orifice is drawn partially about the strand orienting pin...." In Nakai, the concave roll (17) functions to collect (bunch) yarn filaments before the filaments are spread by passage of the yarn over a convex roll (8) in a mandrel winding operation. The roll (17) in Nakai does not disclose a "... pin having an axial portion substantially parallel to a direction of the fluid dispensing orifice" Nakai discloses a mandrel winding process, not an adhesive dispenser. Moreover, there is no reason to interchange the two guide pins (17) of Mullins with the concave roll pin (17) of Nakai. Mullins is not concerned with collecting yarn filaments. England merely discloses processes for making textile filament guides. There is no suggestion in any of the references to substitute the guide roller or England

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with the guide rollers of Mullins or Nakai. Amended Claim 34 is thus patentably distinguished over Mullins, Nakai and England.

Discussion of Allowed & Allowable Claims

Claims 22-27 and 29-31 stand allowed.

Prayer For Relief

In view of the discussion and any amendments above, it is submitted that all pending claims of the present application are in condition for allowance. Kindly withdraw any rejections and objections thereto and allow the claims of the present application to issue as a United States Patent without delay.

Respectfully submitted,



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